

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1. – 8. (Canceled)

9. (New) A method for printing with a color ink-jet printer having at least four ink cartridges respectively containing basic colors and at least one supplementary cartridge containing an ink of a pale color, wherein a requested color can comprise a plurality of component colors selected from said basic colors and said pale color, and the printing of a requested color is performed by depositing a drop of ink for each of said component colors, superimposed upon one another, said method comprising the following steps:

for each of a plurality of requestable colors, establishing an equivalent color having a smaller amount of components than the requestable color;

storing said equivalent colors in association with the corresponding requestable colors;

in response to a request to print a color at a location for a given pixel, retrieving the stored equivalent color for the requested color; and

depositing a drop of ink for each component of the retrieved equivalent color at said location, to thereby print said equivalent color in place of the requested color for said pixel.

10. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the printer has a plurality of supplementary cartridges, and said pale colors are selected from the group consisting of pale magenta, pale cyan and pale black.

11. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein said equivalent colors are stored in the form of a table.

12. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein an equivalent color has a wavelength that is sufficiently close to its corresponding requestable color so as to present substantially the same sensory perception to a human observer.

13. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the difference in wavelength between the requestable and equivalent colors is no greater than 20nm.

14. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein, for each of at least some of said requestable colors, a plurality of equivalent colors are established for different respective levels of correspondence.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein said different levels of correspondence are respectively associated with different ranges of wavelength difference between the requestable color and the equivalent color.

16. (New) A color ink-jet printer comprising:

at least four ink cartridges respectively containing basic colors and at least one supplementary cartridge containing an ink of a pale color, wherein a requested color can comprise a plurality of component colors selected from said basic colors and said pale color;

a memory storing, for each of a plurality of requestable colors, an equivalent color having a smaller amount of components than the requestable color; and

a controller that responds to a request to print a color at a location for a given pixel by retrieving the stored equivalent color for the requested color from said memory, and causing said printer to deposit a drop of ink for each component of the retrieved equivalent color at said location, to thereby print said equivalent color in place of the requested color for said pixel.

17. (New) The printer of claim 16, comprising a plurality of supplementary cartridges, wherein said pale colors are selected from the group consisting of pale magenta, pale cyan and pale black.

18. (New) The printer of claim 16, wherein said equivalent colors are stored in said memory in the form of a table.

19. (New) The printer of claim 16, wherein, for each of at least some of said requestable colors, a plurality of equivalent colors are stored for different respective levels of correspondence.

20. (New) The printer of claim 19, wherein said different levels of correspondence are respectively associated with different ranges of wavelength difference between the requestable color and the equivalent color.